GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2563
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether quarrying activities in the country are causing a number of occupational diseases ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to deal with the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the quarrying work is done manually or by process of drilling and blasting. This can lead to accidents, injuries and exposure to noise and dust. Quarry work are exposed to the hazards of minerals which are being mined. In addition, exposure to silica which is a usual constituent of the rocks results in hazards like respiratory problems like silicosis, chronic bronchitis and increased susceptibility to tuberculosis. Hearing loss due to acute and chronic noise exposure is also seen in drilling and blasting activities.

The national Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad which has been identified as the nodal agency in the matters relating to occupational diseases, has developed a technology for dust control which showed reduction of 75%-85% of the air borne dust, which has been disseminated to the owners of factories, workers, factory inspectorate and local administration for necessary action.